

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. Primary composition comprising at least one lipophilic bioactive compound and a whey protein in an amount effective to increase the bioavailability of the lipophilic bioactive compound.
- 10 2. Primary composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lipophilic bioactive compound is obtained, extracted, enriched or purified from a plant, microorganism, yeast or product of animal origin.
- 15 3. Primary composition according to Claim 2, wherein the plant is tomatoes, soya, green tea, green coffee beans, spices, grapes, cocoa, ginger or cereals.
- 20 4. Primary composition according to Claim 2, wherein the microorganism is any type of bacterium which produces a lipophilic bioactive compound.
- 25 5. Primary composition according to Claim 2, wherein the yeast is a yeast which produces a lipophilic bioactive compound.
- 30 6. Primary composition according to Claim 2, wherein the product of animal origin is chosen from the group consisting of a liver extract and a milk fraction.
- 35 7. Primary composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lipophilic bioactive compound is a carotenoid, polyphenol, lipophilic vitamin, flavonoid,

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isoflavone, curcuminoid, ceramide, proanthocyanidin, terpenoid, sterol, phytosterol, sterol ester, tocotrienol, squalene, or retinoid, alone or as a mixture.

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8. Primary composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lipophilic bioactive compound is a tomato extract, a soybean extract or a mixture thereof.

10 9. Primary composition according to Claim 1 in the form of a powder, gel or liquid and which further comprises at least one of vitamin C or tocopherol.

15 10. Primary composition according to Claim 1, which further comprises at least one of an emulsifier, a stabilizer or another additive.

20 11. Primary composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lipophilic bioactive compound is present in an amount of about 0.05 to 50% by weight of the composition and the whey protein is present in an amount of about 5 to 90% of the composition.

25 12. Primary composition according to Claim 11, wherein the whey protein and lipophilic bioactive compound are present in a weight ratio of about 1:1 to 500:1.

30 13. A primary composition comprising at least one lipophilic bioactive compound of a tomato oleoresin, a soybean extract, or a mixture thereof, and a whey protein in an amount effective to increase the bioavailability of the lipophilic bioactive compound.

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14. Oral composition comprising the primary composition according to Claim 1 in a foodstuff, in a food supplement, in a cosmetic preparation or in a pharmaceutical preparation.

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15. Oral composition according to Claim 14, wherein the foodstuff is a yogurt, a liquid drink, a chocolate containing product, an ice cream, cereal, coffee or animal food.

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16. Oral composition according to Claim 14, wherein the food supplement further comprises at least one of a sweetener, a stabilizer, a flavoring and a colorant and is provided in the form of sugar-coated tablets, pills, gelatin capsules, a syrup, a gel or a cream.

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17. Oral composition according to Claim 14, wherein the cosmetic preparation additionally comprises a compound active with respect to the skin.

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18. Oral composition according to Claim 14, wherein the content of the primary composition is between about 0.001 and 100%.

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19. Oral composition according to Claim 18, wherein the content of the primary composition is between about 10 and 50%.

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20. Cosmetic composition comprising the primary composition according to Claim 1.

21. Cosmetic composition according to Claim 20, wherein the content of primary composition is between about $10^{-10\%}$ and 10%.

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22. A method for protecting skin tissue against ageing which comprises administering to a subject in need of such protection the primary composition of Claim 1.

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23. A method for protecting skin tissue against ageing which comprises administering to a subject in need of such protection the oral composition of Claim 14.

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24. A method for protecting skin tissue against ageing which comprises administering to a subject in need of such protection the cosmetic composition according to Claim 20.

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23. A process for the preparation of a primary composition according to Claim 1, which comprises associating the whey protein with the lipophilic bioactive compound under conditions sufficient to form the composition a mixture.

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24. The process according to Claim 23, wherein the composition is formed by dissolving the whey protein in water to form a first solution, dissolving the lipophilic bioactive compound in a solvent to form a second solution, combining the two solutions, and evaporating the solvent to form the composition as a dispersion.

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25. The process according to Claim 23, wherein the composition is formed by mixing the lipophilic bioactive compound with a solvent to form a first mixture, mixing the first mixture with the whey protein in the form of a powder to form a second mixture and evaporating the solvent from the

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second mixture to produce the composition as a dry powder.

26. The process according to Claim 24, wherein the
5 solvent is acetone, ethanol, isopropanol or
mixtures thereof.

27. The process according to Claim 25, wherein the
solvent is acetone, ethanol, isopropanol or
10 mixtures thereof.